THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) 985 employees of Vayudoot were to be absorbed by Indian Airlines out of a total 1391 employees.

(c) So far appointment letters to 778 Vayudoot employees for absorption in the Short Haul Operations Department of Indian Airlines have been issued.

Aircrafts owned by Vayudoot

3250. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vayudoot has been totally merged with Indian Airlines, if not, whether there is a proposal for the same.

(b) the number of aircrafts and type of aircrafts owned by Vayudoot;

(c) in how many sectors the Vayudoot Aircraft are flying if not, whether the aircrafts have been given on lease; and

(d) what is the total losses incurred by Vayudoot till 31st March, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Vayudoot is working as a separate division of Indian Airlines.

(b) Vayudoot owns 8 Dornier-228 aircraft out of which 3 are operational.

(c) Vayudoot is presently operating 13 stations in West Bengal and the North-East Region. No aircraft of Vayudoot is on lease.

(d) The total loss incurred by Vayudoot since its inception upto 31-3-94 is Rs. 201.60 Crores.

Air-worthiness of Boeing aircrafts

3251. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of 737 Boeing Aircrafts with Indian Airlines;

(b) how many of them have been flying for over 15 years;

(c) which international agency certify the Air-worthiness of Boeing 737 and whether all our Boeing 737 have been certified as airworthy, if so, when;

(d) whether Indian Airlines are considering to replace the Boeing 737 with any other new aircrafts; and

(e) if so, by when the Boeing 737 will be phased out finally?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has twenty Boeing 737 aircraft at present, of which eight are more than 15 years old.

(c) Certification of Air-worthiness for operators in India is within the domain of Director General of Civil Aviation: India; aircraft are operated only if they are certified by DGCA as airworthy.

(d) and (e) Indian Airilnes does not have any firm plan for replacement of Boeing 737 aircraft at present The aircraft are likely to remain in operation till the year 2000.

Foreign Investors in Tourism Industry

3252. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign investors have shown interest in investing in tourism industry in the country; and